

Appl. No. 10/617,953
Amdt. Dated 07/05/05
Reply to Office Action of 04/06/05

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An apparatus for cooking bacon and comprising:
 - a base having a bottom surface and a plurality of edge portions integral therewith and extending upwardly therefrom;
 - a plurality of elongate prongs having lower end portions integral with said base and extending upwardly therefrom respectively, said plurality of prongs being generally equally spaced apart and for allowing a plurality of bacon strips each having opposed side edge portions to be corrugated therebetween and detached from each other and maintained on substantially one respective side edge portion during a cooking process to thereby allow grease to drip downwardly therefrom and towards said base; and
 - a plurality of lips integral with said plurality of prongs and extending upwardly from the lower end portions thereof respectively, each said plurality of lips for receiving said one side edge portion of a bacon strip and for maintaining same above said base and away from grease collected thereat.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of depressions formed on said base and spaced apart between said plurality of edge portions, said plurality of depressions assisting to absorb grease and maintaining same in a predetermined area.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base includes a bottom surface coated with a grease-proof material for preventing grease from passes therethrough.

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4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said plurality of prongs are provided with a hollow interior so that a plurality of said apparatus can be stacked on top of each other.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is formed from grease-absorbing material.

6. (Original) An apparatus for cooking bacon and comprising:
a base having a bottom surface and a plurality of edge portions integral therewith and extending upwardly therefrom;

a plurality of elongate prongs having lower end portions integral with said base and extending upwardly therefrom respectively, said plurality of prongs being generally equally spaced apart and for allowing a plurality of bacon strips each having opposed side edge portions to be corrugated therebetween and detached from each other and maintained on substantially one respective side edge portion during a cooking process to thereby allow grease to drip downwardly therefrom and towards said base;

a plurality of lips integral with said plurality of prongs and extending upwardly from the lower end portions thereof respectively, each said plurality of lips for receiving said one side edge portion of a bacon strip and for maintaining same above said base and away from grease collected thereat; and

a plurality of depressions formed on said base and spaced apart between said plurality of edge portions, said plurality of depressions assisting to absorb grease and maintaining same in a predetermined area.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said base includes a bottom surface coated with a grease-proof material for preventing grease from passes therethrough.

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8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said plurality of prongs are provided with a hollow interior so that a plurality of said apparatus can be stacked on top of each other.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said apparatus is formed from grease-absorbing material.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cooking bacon and comprising:
a tray having a substantially planar bottom surface and a plurality of edge portions integral therewith and extending upwardly therefrom;

a rack removably positionable on top of said tray and between said plurality of edge portions, said rack including a plurality of elongate prongs having lower end portions connected to said rack and extending upwardly therefrom respectively, said plurality of prongs being generally equally spaced apart and for allowing a plurality of bacon strips each having opposed side edge portions to be corrugated therebetween and detached from each other and maintained on substantially one respective side edge portion during a cooking process to thereby allow grease to drip downwardly therefrom and towards said tray; and

a paper layer removably positionable between the bottom surface of said tray and said rack and for absorbing bacon grease;

wherein each said plurality of prongs further has a centrally disposed longitudinal axis positioned at a non-perpendicular angle to said tray.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each said plurality of prongs further has respective upper end portions having a width that is smaller than a width of each said respective lower end portions.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each said plurality of prongs further has respective upper end portions spaced further apart from each other than said respective lower end portions.

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13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each said plurality of prongs further has a substantially conical shape.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein each said plurality of prongs further has an outer surface converging upwardly from respective lower end portions thereof.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said rack is formed from a disposable material.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said rack is made from a plastic material.